

An interactive electronic classroom system for enabling teachers to teach students concepts and to receive immediate feedback regarding how well the students have learned the concepts. Structure is provided for enabling students to proceed in lockstep or at their own pace through exercises and quizzes, responding electronically to questions asked, the teacher being able to receive the responses, and to interpret a readout, in histogram or other graphic display form, of student responses. In a preferred embodiment, a central computer using an IBM AT (tm) compatible system is employed, together with a plurality of student computers which range from simple devices to full fledged personal computers. Optical peripheral hardware, such as VCRs or other recording/reproducing devices, may be used to provide lessons to students in association with the computer network.

Abrahamson's disclosure is, however, limited to the use of computers, communications systems, and database systems in a classroom situation; there is nothing whatever about how such systems might be used where education is not taking place in a classroom or where the education is a byproduct of some other activity.

Patentability of the claims over the references

In order to make a rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 103, Examiner must establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. One element of the *prima facie* case is that the references being combined must together show all of the limitations of the claim being rejected (see MPEP 2143, p.2100-124, first column). As may be seen from the foregoing discussion of McAndrew and Abrahamson, the combined references discloses nothing like the use of an intermediary for a consultation between a first physician and a second physician, the use of the intermediary to indicate continuing medical education credit and store the continuing medical education credit, or the role of the medical information specialist in performing these functions in the intermediary. Since that is the case, Examiner has not made his *prima facie* case of obviousness, and his rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over the combination of McAndrew and Abrahamson is without basis.

Continuing in more detail concerning the rejection, Examiner refers Applicants to col. 1, ln 35-54 and col. 8, ln 27-37 of McAndrew for all of the limitations in the claim other than of the method steps. Col. 1, ln. 35-54 merely sets forth in overview how McAndrew's system can be used to provide a better level of health care management and how it improves productivity. Col. 8, ln 27-37 is set forth in full above. The location merely

indicates that McAndrew's system can recommend that the case be referred to a more experienced reviewer and can provide the more experienced reviewer with the logic it used to make its recommendation. None of this adds up to anything like the environment set forth in the preamble of Applicants' claim.

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Examiner admits that McAndrew does not disclose the steps of the method. For that purpose, he relies on Col. 10, line 1-11, 23-42 and col. 3, ln, 17-24. of Abrahamson. Col 10, lines 1-11 discloses how the system of Abrahamson is able to give a classroom teacher instant feedback on the percentage of students that are answering questions provided by the system correctly. Col. 10, lines 43-58 discloses how Abrahamson's system may be used with didactic software and simulations. Col. 3, lines 17-24 simply summarizes what Abrahamson's system does. None of this has anything whatever to do with what is set forth in the method steps of Applicants' claim, namely

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receiving a comment made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications system from the second physician; and
providing the comment to a medical information specialist in the intermediary who is neither the first nor the second physician, the medical information specialist indicating continuing medical education credit for the first physician based at least on the comment in a database accessible from the intermediary.

The detailed consideration of Examiner's rejections thus confirms what has already been set forth, namely, that the references do not show all of the limitations of claim 1, and that Examiner has not made his *prima facie* case of obviousness.

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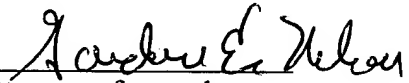
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Claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1 and of course are all patentable because the claim they are dependent from is patentable. The claims are further patentable in their own rights because the references do not disclose the added limitations. In his rejections of claims 2-4, Examiner relies on the above-cited locations in Abrahamson, but the disclosures at these locations have no more to do with the added limitations of claims 2-4 than they have to do with the limitations of claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants have shown that Examiner has failed to make his *prima facie* case for rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 and have thereby fulfilled the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.111(b). Applicants consequently respectfully request that Examiner continue with his examination and allow the claims as amended, as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.111(a).

Respectfully submitted,



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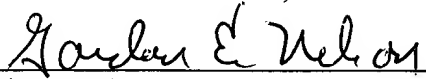
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